

Subhasis PANDA: *Diplarche* Hook. f. & Thomson (*Ericaceae*) – A New Generic Record for Arunachal Himalaya, India

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Summary: The genus *Diplarche* Hook. f. & Thomson (*Ericaceae*) is recorded for the first time from Arunachal Himalaya, India. The genus comprises two species in the world, of which *D. multiflora* Hook. f. & Thomson is recorded based on the Kingdon-Ward collection from Arunachal Pradesh. The species is described here along with photographs of the herbarium specimen to facilitate identification in the field.

The genus *Diplarche* Hook. f. & Thomson (*Ericaceae*) contains two species, *D. multiflora* Hook. f. & Thomson and *D. pauciflora* Hook. f. & Thomson, distributed in India (Sikkim Himalaya), Nepal and SW China (Mabberley 2008, Panda 2008). While studying specimens of *Ericaceae* from West Kameng, Arunachal Pradesh at Eastern Regional Center, Botanical Survey of India, Shillong (ASSAM) under a UGC Minor Research Project, one specimen (Kingdon-Ward 19575, Fig. 1) from Arunachal Himalaya after a critical study was found to belong to *Diplarche multiflora* Hook. f. & Thomson. This is a new record of the genus from Arunachal Pradesh as it was not reported by Chowdhery et al. (2008) in their recent flora on Arunachal Pradesh. As it is an interesting addition to the flora of Arunachal Pradesh, *Diplarche multiflora* is described here along with photographs of herbarium specimens to facilitate its easy identification in the field. Surprisingly, no further collections were made after Kingdon-Ward (1950), although several field trips conducted by Botanical Survey of India to these regions. The author searched for

live collections during “Flora of India Project” work on *Ericaceae* in 2003 field studies at different places in Lohit District, especially Dalai Valley, but no populations of this genus were observed, although several other places were not surveyed yet. Therefore, further collection of this species from Arunachal Himalaya requires more field studies.

Diplarche multiflora Hook. f. & Thomson in Hooker’s J. Bot. Kew Gard. Misc. 6: 383, t. 11A (1854) – C. B. Clarke in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 3: 462 (1882) – W. W. Sm. & Cave in Rec. Bot. Surv. India 4(5): 215 (1911) – Hand.-Mazz., Symb. Sin. 7: 786 (1936) – H. Hara in H. Hara & al., Enum. Fl. Pl. Nepal 3: 55 (1982) – Press & al., Ann. Checkl. Fl. Pl. Nepal: 101 (2000) – H. P. Yang & D. F. Chamb. in C. Y. Wu & al., Fl. China 14: 258 (2005). Type: INDIA. Sikkim, Lachen, 10000–12000 ft, 9 June 1849, J. D. Hooker s.n. (K).

Dwarf stout shrubs, 12–19 cm high; stem robust, erect, feathery, profusely branched; branches covered with closely marked appressed leaf scars. Leaves loosely imbricate, coriaceous, linear to oblong, 1.5–7 × 0.5–1.5 mm, cuneate at base, serrate or ciliate at margins, acute or gland-tipped at apex, glabrous; venation obscure; sessile. Inflorescence in simple corymbs, 10–12(–20)-flowered, congested, perulate. Flowers 8–9 mm long; pedicels erect, cylindric, 1–2 mm long; bracteoles 2, subbasal, opposite, linear to oblong, 2.5–3 × 0.5–1 mm, cuneate at base, ciliate at margins, acute at apex, glabrous. Calyx lobes linear to oblong,



Fig. 1. *Diplarche multiflora* Hook. f. & Thomson. A. Voucher specimen: India, Arunachal Pradesh, Kingdon Ward 19575 (ASSAM). B. Flowering twigs. C. Branch close up. D. Inflorescence close up.

3.5–4 × 0.5–1 mm, cuneate at base, ciliate at margins, acute to rounded at apex, glabrous. Corolla hypocrateriform, pinkish to pinkish-white, coriaceous, glabrous; tube cylindric, 5–7 mm long, ca. 1 mm across; lobes 5, obovate, ca. 2.5 mm long. Stamens 10, diplostemonous, 5 shorter ca. 2 mm long, while 5 longer ca. 3 mm long, shorter stamens basally epipetalous while longer one weakly epipetalous for most of their length; viscin threads present all over the length of filaments; anthers minute, subglobose. Pistil ca. 3 mm long; ovary globose, ca. 1 × 1 mm, glabrous; disc obscure; style minute; stigma-style complex expanded; stigma capitate, 5-lobed.

Flowering: June–August.

Habitat: Gammie (1894) reported that *Diplarche multiflora* in Sikkim Himalaya prefers to grow in cliffs, shallow snow-clad soils and in scrub-clad slopes amongst *Rhododendron anthopogon* D. Don, *Primula capitata* Hook., *Diapensia himalaica* Hook. f. & Thomson, *Rheum nobile* Hook. f. & Thomson, *Nardostachys jatamansi* (D. Don) DC., *Picrorrhiza kurroa* Royle ex Benth. at altitudes ranging from 3600–5000 m.

Distribution: India (Eastern Himalaya: Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh), Eastern Nepal, Bhutan, SW China (SE Xizang and NW Yunnan) and N Myanmar (Adung Valley).

Specimen examined: Arunachal Pradesh, on the way

to Sadiya from Lohit valley, 1950, Kingdon Ward 19575 (ASSAM).

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S. Panda : インド, アルナチャル・ヒマラヤ新産の *Diplarche* Hook. f. & Thomson (ツツジ科)

ツツジ科の *Diplarche multiflora* Hook. f. & Thomson をインド・アルナチャルプラデシュ州 Lohit から Sadiya への道で得られた Kingdon Ward 19575 (ASSAM) に基づ

いて記録した。本種は *Diplarche* の 2 種のうちの一つであり、インドからは初めての報告となる。

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